Chapter-IV

Working of Belgaum Municipal Corporation: A Survey

Municipal Corporation is the top most unit in the forms of urban local governments in India. It is the topmost, not in the sense, that it exercises authority over other forms of urban government. Unlike rural local government, urban local government in India, is not hierarchical. The municipal corporation is more respectable and enjoys a greater measure of autonomy than other forms of local government.

A municipal corporation is set up under a special statute which is passed by the state legislature. Such a legislation may be enacted specially for a particular corporation or for all corporations in a state. Bombay, Madras and
Calcutta corporations in Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Mzadya, Pradesh have been established under the UP Mahapalika Adiniyam, 1959, the MP Municipal Corporation Act, 1956, and the Karnataka Municipal Corporations Act, 1976 respectively.

At present the Bombay municipal corporation is the only one, which cannot be superseded, and the Act does not contain any provision for its dissolution. As in other states, in Karnataka there is a provision to supersede the municipal corporations for the reasons specified in the Act. Under the section 101 of the Karnataka municipal corporations Act of 1976, the state government can dissolve them on the basis of reasons as noted below.

"If in the opinion of government the corporation is not competent to perform or makes default in the performance of any of the duties
imposed on it or undertaken by it, by or under this act or any other law for the time being in force or exceeds or abuses its powers or fails to carry out the directions or orders given by government to it under this act, or any other law or is acting in a manner prejudicial to the interests of the corporation, the government may, by an order publish, together with a statement of the reasons therefore, in the official Gazette declare the corporation to be incompetent or in default or to have exceeded or abused its powers, or to have failed to carry out the directions given to it, or to have acted in a manner prejudicial to the interests of the corporation as the case may be, and may subject to the provisions of section 101 supersede it for a period to be specified in the order".  

However, under the new amendments to the municipal corporations Act, no elected body can be
superseded on flimsy grounds. The government has power to dissolve the elected body of the corporation only on serious allegations and no corporation can remain without an elected body for more than six months. This strengthens the municipal corporations and guarantees their stability and continuity.

As the corporation is set up under a statute, the different states apply different criteria in the setting up of corporations. Corporations vary very considerably both in terms of population and the revenue, The Rural Urban Relationship Committee (1966) recommended a corporation form of government only for cities which have a population of not less than 5 lakhs and annual income of not less than one crore of rupees. But this criterion has not been fully observed by all states in the creation of municipal corporations. As pointed out in the proceeding chapter, under the Karnataka Municipal
Corporations Act of 1976 the population criterion was fixed at 2 lakhs. The Karnataka Municipal Corporations (Amendment) Act, 1994, provides for a municipal corporation for cities or larger urban areas which have a population of not less than 3 lakhs and annual income of not less than rupees six crores per annum or an amount calculated at the rate of rupees two hundred per capita per annum whichever is higher. The truth is that the state is the sole judge of which city may be elevated to the status of a corporation.

1. THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

The Council has been the physical embodiment of grass roots democracy as envisaged by idealists like Thomas Jefferson and M. K. Gandhi. In spite of the recent universal declining trend, the law generally vests the ultimate authority and responsibility for the management of local affairs with the council. This is true of countries like
France also where the local government is treated as an integral part of the governmental system. The local council can resign in protest and can go in appeal to the local electorate against the government action if it is deemed as unbecoming.6

The Municipal Council of Belgaum city is the representative and autonomous body created by the State legislature. At present, the council is functioning in accordance with the provisions of the Karnataka Municipal Corporations Act, 1976. The Council is the local Legislative Assembly, articulating popular aspirations which get transformed into the law of the city. In 1995, the council comprises 57 members, known as councilors, elected on the basis of adult franchise. Of them, 5 seats are reserved for Scheduled Castes (SC), one for Scheduled Tribes (ST) and 11 for women. The new Municipal Law of 1994 provides for reservation of seats in the municipal corporation for SC and ST in
proportion to their population in the corporation area. As a result, one third shall be reserved for SC/ST women. These reserved seats will rotate among the various wards (corporation constancies) in the corporation. Further, one third of total number of seats shall be reserved for women (including the number of seats reserved SC/ST women) and for election purposes these seats will also rotate among the different wards in Municipal Corporation. Ward may be said about the reservation of seats for members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in many types of council. It may be recalled here that there has never been any reservation of seats in the Bombay Corporation. As the problems of the city are principally civic ones and as local government has been considered to be training ground for democracy, the reservation of seats appears to be uncalled for and even undesirable. It has been said that political considerations should be kept out of the local administration. It may also be asserted
that sectional considerations must also not be allowed to interfere with the functioning of corporation. However, the reservation to women in general, and SC and ST women in particular, gives an opportunity to women folk, hitherto neglected, to participate in the political affairs of the city government. This is really a bold step and enlightened policy.

The term of the council is fixed at 5 years. The term of three or four years for the council has been considered by many to be rather short. As the council is the Legislative Assembly it must have reasonably long term to be able to implement its policies and to produce their impact. Moreover, elections held at short intervals tend to keep alive political feuds and may thus stand in the way of smooth functioning of civic administration. It has been recommended on these grounds, therefore, that the life of the council should be fixed at
five years which is also the life of State Legislative Assembly and Parliament. Hence, the term of 5 years is reasonable and may be continued.

The Belgaum municipal council functions under the directions of the mayor. The municipal Secretary who belongs to KAS. He does not take any orders or directions from the executive wing. This is on the lines of the legislative secretariat at the state and national levels in a federal polity. Deliberative wing consisting of council and committees, are aided and assisted by the Municipal Secretary who is kept independent of the municipal commissioner in appointment, discipline, and other service matters.

**Qualifications and Disqualifications of Councilors**

Under constitution of India, every adult of 18 years of age is given the right to vote except aliens. The State Assembly electoral rolls are used
for municipal elections. A provision is made in the new Municipal Corporation Act that the electoral roll of the corporation should be prepared subject to the superintendence, direction and control of the State Election Commission, established under the provision of 74th Constitutional Amendment Act. A voter must be ordinarily a resident of the city and his name must be included in the list of the registered voters of the ward. No person shall be qualified for election as a councilor unless his name is included in the electoral roll of any division of the city. The persons intending to contest in the municipal elections or councilors already elected are disqualified if they are deaf, mutes, of unsound mind, insolvent, or if they happen to be the municipal contractors or legal practitioners on behalf of the council or if there are any outstanding areas of municipal taxes against them. A candidate is also debarred from contesting in the municipal elections if he is less
than 25 years of age, if he is convicted of an offence under the provisions of the Untouchability Offence Act 1955 or the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954, if he is dismissed from service by the Central Government, the State Government or the Corporation for misconduct.

The councilors are also not eligible to sit in the council meeting if they absent themselves from the meetings of the council for a period of three consecutive months reckoned from the date of the commencement of his term of office. However, if the councilor applies for restoration before the date of its next meeting the council may at its next meeting restores him to the office of the councilor.
Meetings of the Council.

The Belgaum city municipal council meetings are of two types, statutory and non-statutory. The statutory meetings are held in accordance with the Act, while the non statutory (urgent and special meetings) are held when the mayor or some specified not less than 1/3 of the members wishes to have such meetings. In France, the prefect or the President may convene special meetings of the councils. The council meets at least once in a month and sometimes it meets twice or thrice in a month depending on the circumstance. However, it is indicated that no meetings should be held on a public holiday.

The Council meetings are presided over by the mayor, and in his absence, by the deputy mayor. If the offices of the mayor and deputy mayor are vacant, the duties assigned to the mayor by rules 2
to 5 shall be performed by the commissioner. The quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting is fixed at one third of the strength of the council. If such quorum is not available the meeting stands adjourned. The resolution of the council once made, can not be modified or cancelled within three months except at a meeting specially called for that purpose and by a resolution supported by not less than 2/3rds of the total number of members.

Powers of the Council

The municipal council of Belgaum city is endowed with varied powers. They are legislative, administrative, financial, judicial and punitive. The council is a local legislative body which gives expression and effect to the will of the civic community through its various meetings and resolutions. It implements the provisions of the
Act by making resolutions. Besides, it makes bye laws regarding the time and place of meetings, the conduct of proceedings at meetings etc. their violation leads to fine and even imprisonment, as per the rules of the council. The council is authorized to elect the mayor and deputy mayor and may remove them from office if they fail to command its confidence. It also elects the councilors to different standing committees. It regulates the conduct of elections, organization of departments, and creation of offices, pension and other service matters. It also exercises powers over the public health, housing licenses and permits, markets and so on.

The Council has controlling powers over the administration of the corporation. It has the power to supervise, investigate and inspect the various administrative departments. It can call for any municipal officer to get explanation on any matter
with which he is connected. It has the power to enter into contract, makes purchases and sells property.

The financial powers relate to consideration and adoption of budget including passing of appropriation and levying of taxes, license fees and rents. It has the power to raise loans, receive grants in aid and undertake remunerative enterprises.

In the judicial field, the council possesses the power to levy fines on all defaulters and offenders of municipal bye laws. It settles electoral disputes. It may instill discipline and expel members for violation of the rules and regulations. The council can remove the mayor either by a vote of no confidence or by impeachment. The council and its committees serve
as courts of appeal in disciplinary cases against staff.

The council has punitive powers too. Under this category, it can take action against those who are guilty of causing public nuisance in various ways such as quality of selling adulterated and unwholesome foodstuffs and other consumable goods. It can forbid the use of buildings declared unfit for human habitation, use of manure injurious to public health and also the use of water from polluted sources and construction of walls and roofs out of inflammable materials.

All these powers appear to be wide. But in their exercise the council itself plays into the hands of the executive. The restricted performance of these functions is largely because of increasing state government control. If the English local
councils freely adopt local budgets, in India they require the approval of the government.

2. THE MAYOR

The mayor is the first citizen of the city. The office of the mayor is one endowed with considerable dignity. A provision is made by the Act of 1994 to reserve the offices of mayor and deputy mayors of the corporation to scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST), women, and backward classes. This will be by rotation\(^{13}\). The mayor of the municipal corporation of Belgaum city is elected from among the elected councilors for one year at a meeting specially called for by the commissioner for that purpose and presided over by the Divisional Commissioner of the revenue division. In the same first meeting of the corporation after the general election, the deputy
mayor is also elected for one year from among the
elected councilors.

Powers and Functions of the Mayor

The mayor shall preside over every meeting of
the corporation. As the head of the deliberative
wing, he controls its sessions and deliberations in
consolation with the commissioner and the
secretary. The agenda and the minutes are framed
with his approval. He maintains the dignity,
decorum and decency of the council. He is
authorized to take disciplinary action while,
conducting the council meetings. If in his opinion,
the conduct of a councilor is disorderly, he can
direct and declare that the members must withdraw
from the meeting. He can direct such member not to
attend the remainder of the meeting days. If a
councilor refuses to leave the house, the mayor is
authorized to remove him from the meeting place. In
cases of grave disorder prevailing in any meeting, the mayor can suspend such meetings. His decision is final in regard to points of order revised by the members in the council meeting. He is given a casting vote to exercise when there is an equal division of the votes. He will be always keenly aware of the agenda, initiates policies keeping in the view the requirements of the city and aspirations of the people. He makes resolutions to give effect to the provisions of the Act.

The mayor is kept in touch with the day to day working of the corporation as he is expected to convey to the council how the administrative machinery works. All official correspondence between the council and government must be conducted through the mayor. He is allowed to delegate his administrative functions to the commissioner. He is provided with the powers of
appointment, dismissal and removal of certain employees of the corporation.

The mayor enjoys the power of inspection, and may give direction to the commissioner with regard to implementation of any resolution of the corporation. The mayor may call any record of the corporation from the commissioner.

The indirect election of the mayor combined with this short one year tenure makes him more a figure head than an active functionary. Therefore, a demand has been made especially by mayors themselves, to change the present system and have the mayor elected directly by the people. His tenure is too short to enable a mayor to acquire insight into the problems of municipal administration. It strengthens the bureaucracy headed by the municipal commissioner. Since the council has to get its policies implemented by the
commissioner, the term of the mayor must be made coterminous with that of the council. A mayor elected for only one year finds himself ineffective and weak in his relationship with the commissioner who outstays him. A one year term for mayor as against a five year term for the council and a two year term for the municipal commissioner appears anomalous.

The office of the mayor needs to be strengthened to enable the incumbent to emerge as a leader of a self governing self respecting community. Keeping his view in mind the following suggestions are being made:

1. The terms the mayor should be made co terminus with that of the council. Provision may also be made for his removal from office by a special majority vote of the council.
2. The mayor may be consulted by the state government, in the appointment of the commissioner for the corporation.

3. The mayor along with the chairman of the various committees may constitute an appellate tribunal to hear appeals against the decisions of the municipal commissioner.

4. The mayor may write the character roll of the commissioner.

5. All official correspondence between the corporation and the government may be conducted through the mayor.

Function of the Deputy Mayor

1. When the office of the mayor is vacant his function shall devolve on the deputy mayor until a new mayor is elected.

2. If the mayor is continuously absent from the city for more than eight days, or is
incapacitated for more than eight days his function shall devolve on the deputy mayor until the mayor returns to the city or recovers from his incapacity, as the case may be.

3. The deputy mayor shall have the power to direct the commissioner to get the administration and audit reports prepared in time.

4. The deputy mayor shall discharge such function of the mayor as may be delegated to him by the mayor.15

3. THE STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE CORPORATION

The committee system is a part of the municipal corporation. They are in vogue in one form or the other in all forms of local government. In the municipal corporation, "The committees are a contrivance for decentralizing various functions of
the council. Ensuring wider participation in
decision making on the part of the councilors. Therefore, this can be clearly explained as
government by committees.

Municipal corporations cannot function without the assistance of the committees. The committees may deal with matters which are likely to be debated in the council of Municipal Corporation. The committees of Belgaum city Municipal Corporation are playing a very important role in the functioning of the corporation. There are three standing committees. They are as follows:

1. The Standing Committee for Taxation and Finance.
2. The Standing Committee for Public Health, and
3. The Standing Committee for Works.
The distinguishing features of the Standing Committee are (a) their constitution and strength are determined by the legislation (b) the municipal corporation is compelled to refer certain matters to these committees and act only after there cipt of a report from them, (c) the standing committees are authorized to plan and execute certain works without reference to the corporation. In addition to the standing committees specified above, the Karnataka Municipal Corporation Act provides for the Social Justice Committee of the Corporation. This committee consists of mayor and six other members elected by the councilors belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Mayor is the ex officio member and the Chairman of the Social Justice Committee. It performs such functions which secure social justice to persons belonging to Scheduled Castes (SCs) Scheduled Tribes (STs) and other weaker sections of society and women.
Apart from these standing committees, there are four adhoc committee in the Belgaum city municipal corporation. They are: (a) the Taxation Appeal Committee, (b) 18 per cent Committee (Committee for the welfare of the SCs & STs), and (c) Town Hall Committee and (d) Farm Committee. The constitution of these committees is determined by the corporation. The fundamental deference between the standing committees and the adhoc committees is that it is not obligatory on the part of the municipal corporation to delegate powers to the latter committees. They are dissolved after the business is over.

Under the Act of 1994, a provision is made for the creation of four standing committees, viz.,

1. The Standing Committee for Taxation, Finance and Appeals:

2. The Standing committee for public Health, Education and Social Justice;
3. The Standing Committee for Planning and Improvement; and

4. The Standing Committee for Accounts.

Some changes are also made regarding the composition of these committees under the new Act. The Standing committee for public health, education and social justice consists of not less than two councilors belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Further, each standing committee shall consists of seven councilors of the corporation elected at its first meeting after the general elections and at the first meeting in the same month in each succeeding year according to the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote17. A person ceases to be a members of the standing committee if he ceases to be a councilor or if he remains absent without the permission of the standing committee for three consecutive meetings. Generally, the
elected members of the corporation become the members of the standing committee outsiders are not eligible to become members of any committee. No councilor shall be a member of the standing committee. Outsiders are not eligible to become members of any committee. No councilor shall be member of more than one standing committee at the same time. The mayor and the deputy mayor of the corporation shall be ex officio members of all the standing committee, but they will not have voting power. At present all the committees are headed by the ruling congress (I) political party. However, the members of the committees belong to different political parties and independents.

Section 12 of the Karnataka Municipal Corporations Act, 1976, deals with chairman of the standing committees. Each standing committee elects one of its members as chairman. The chairman of the standing committee is usually elected for a term of
one year. He is eligible for reelection. The election of the chairman of each standing committee is on the basis of political considerations. Therefore, the chairman and members of the committees are elected on party lines. The chairman holds office until his successor is elected. He vacates his office when he ceases to be a member of the standing committee. If the office of the chairman becomes vacant, one of its members shall be elected as the chairman. The person so elected shall continue in office, so long only as the person in whose place he is elected.

The meeting of all the standing committees will be held in the office of the corporation. The notices of the standing committees meetings are issued by the council secretary in consultation with chairman of the standing committees and the commissioner. Each standing committees meets at lest once in a month and conducts the business. All
the questions which come before the meeting shall be decided by the majority of votes of the members present and voting at the meeting. The proceedings of standing committee are entered in a book and are signed by the chairman after every meeting. The proceedings of each standing committee shall be placed before the council at its next meeting.

The standing committees exercise such powers and perform such functions as are conferred upon them by the statute. An important function of the committees is overseeing of the municipal commissioner, and indeed, the entire municipal administration. The municipal commissioner, generally speaking, reports his actions to the standing committees on a wide variety of matters. The powers of the standing committees of the Belgaum municipal corporations include:

1. The standing committee for taxation and finance approves the form in which the budget of the corporation is to be prepared and, also
recommends the budget to the council for approval. It is empowered to reduce the amount of budget grant or transfer any amount from one head to another in the budget. It has access to all municipal accounts, records and correspondence relating to them and may even call for explanation from the commissioner concerning any receipt or expenditure. It may conduct an examination and audit of the municipal corporation reports to the standing committee any impropriety or irregularity, which he may at any time notice in expenditure or in municipal accounts. The municipal commissioner submits to the committee an annual report on the entire municipal accounts for the previous year.

2. The public works committee deals with any matter connected with roads, buildings, lighting, public parks and gardens, leases and acquisition of property. It approves all the
contracts of the municipal corporation. The committee may be referred for inquiry and report, or for opinion on the matters mentioned above.

3. The public health committee may be referred for inquiry and report, or for opinion, on any matter connected with public health and safety, sanitation, markets, slaughter houses, vaccination, disposal of rubbish and offensive matter, and regulation of dangerous and offensive trades any matter relating to hospitals and dispensaries and medical and public health administration in the city.

4. The municipal commissioner has been enjoined to take prior approval for the standing committee on a wide variety of subject and in many cases he is to report to them.

Acting as the necessary link between the council and the municipal commissioner, the
standing committees, restrict the influence and effectiveness of both. The council because of its size, leaves to its standing committees the care of various matters and the oversee of day to day civic administration. Although decisions of the standing committees on many subjects need to be approved by the council, these normally speaking get its acceptance as a matter of course.

The standing committees are the real workshops of local government, which make resolutions either for immediate action or for the approval of the council. The committees in the municipal corporation are the important components and they have also an edge over other organs, viz., the council and the commissioner. What the council cannot do and only the committee can do the commissioner in the policy formulation. In other words, the principal committees not only offer some leadership and direction in the deliberation of the
tenure of the committees is also apt to weaken this position. The method of election to the standing committees being proportional representation, the committees are an image of the council reflecting their political composition. This inhibits homogeneity in outlook and action of the committee. In other words, the standing committees can never hope to emerge as a cabinet controlling the local bureaucracy.

THE CORPORATION BUDGET

Administration and Finance are as inseparable as body and its shadow. Finance is the lifeblood of a government. No government can perform any activity without money, just as no motor-car can run without petrol. In the words of Kautilya, All undertakings depend upon finance. Hence, foremost attention shall be paid to the treasury. Sound fiscal management is, therefore, of vital
importance to any level of government. Imprudent financial management not only brings bad name to the government but also alienates it from the people.

In a democracy, evolving of a sound financial management is imperative, as the masses tend to consider this as the criterion for the success or the failure of democracy. With the emergence of the concept of welfare state, the modern governments have undertaken innumerable functions. To carry out these functions, there is a need for the provision of adequate finance. Therefore, collecting money and spending it on services properly, has assumed considerable significance. F. A. Nigro has rightly pointed out:

Financial administration is of great importance today because of the tremendous increase in amounts of money expended for government service.
Everything government does, requires money it is utterly essential that sound principles and techniques of financial administration be employed.

Finance constitutes the fuel for the local government engine. Without it, the local government engine will come to a standstill and local democracy will become meaningless. R.M. Jackson has observed that virtually, all the services that government can provide whether it be central government or local government, cost money. Freedom may be a thing of the spirit but it generally stands on the basis of money to spend and without financial independence, a local authority must lead a very subdued life. At present, as a matter of fact, the local bodies are entrusted with more industrial, agricultural development and varied economic activities. Hence, an examination of their finance has become imperative to know the growing importance of local bodies in the present
democratic set up in our country. On account of increase in population, urbanization and industrialization, the local bodies and their financial structures are subjected to heavy strains. In Indian local governments are usually constrained by limited finances. The Reserve Bank of India has aptly emphasized the importance of the local government finances. In its Bulletin number 1962, it stated.

With the increasing industrialization and urbanization under the impetus of development and planning, the local authorities form a growing part of the expanding public sector, with powers to raise and spend considerable amounts of public funds for development purposes. Local authorities form an important segment of public sector in India. The contribution of the local bodies to income in general and capital formation is of
considerable significance in view of their large number and the area and population they cover.

The government, realizing the importance of local bodies and their weak financial position instituted investigations from time to time to appraise the financial position of the local bodies and recommend measures for their augmentation. The local finance enquiry committee (1995), the Taxation enquiry commission (1954), Committee of Ministers of the Augmentation of Financial Resources of Urban Local Bodies (1976) were specially appointed for the purposes. But their recommendations have not been fully implemented. However, the approach of the committee has been fragmentary and isolated, as if the finance of the local bodies stood by them.

A good financial administrative system necessitates a scientific expenditure pattern which
ensures maximum benefit from minimum resources. A proper budgetary system, then becomes, important where public expenditure is involved. In municipal administration it is all the more necessary as the resources of this body in the discharge of its functions tend to be judged by the way its revenues are spent, the tendencies of increase or decrease in expenditure. The municipal corporation exists to provide certain amenities to the local population. The expenditure pattern of this body, therefore, has to be such that it reflects the priority services. In order to have a proper expenditure pattern, scientific budgetary practices become imperative.

The local body generally follows the traditional revenue budgetary practice. The estimates of expenditure are prepared by the respective departments and then sanction is taken by the competent authority before any expenditure
is incurred. The budgets generally provide for the estimated figures of income and expenditure for the current financial year which is revised after sometime and a revised estimate is prepared and sanctioned for the remaining period. This is general practice which may be common to most of the local bodies in the country. However, it has been observed that the figures of income are, in majority of the cases, inflated in the beginning. This provides the local body for increased expenditure. The result of his practice is that it turns a surplus budget into a deficit budget. In most cases the expenditure exceeds the income at the end of the financial year, whereas in the beginning the case is vice versa. Cases have also been reported where the variation in the estimated and actual figures of income and expenditure have been significant. This may not turn the budget into a deficient one, but at the same time it reflects upon the inaccuracy in estimating the figures. In
the absence of accuracy the budget figures, certain things follow which are against the principles of good budgeting.

It may be conceded that even the traditional revenue budgeting practice are not being properly followed in the corporation, leave aside the improved budgeting methods. Under these circumstances, the corporation spends money in the manner it likes irrespective of the budget provisions, rules and procedures. Therefore, unless the budgetary practices improve not much headway could be made in the corporation. There has to be rational relationship between the income and expenditure, the estimated and the actual figures and between the functions and services of the corporation. The ideas expressed above can better achieved if one could rationalize the corporation budgeting system. For the present, the corporation budgets are prepared in utter disregard of even the
normal accepted norms of budgeting. The maintenance and upkeep of accounts is generally in complete and defective. This becomes more apparent when audit demands information but the same is not supplied in time. Sometimes even repeated request fail to get the required information and the auditors, therefore, have to write in their report that information is incomplete. In order to tone up the expenditure, these allied aspects have also to be properly looked after by the corporation authorities, because in the absence of proper information system, effective steps cannot be taken by the concerned authorities.

The Karnataka Municipal Corporation Act, 1976, that governs the working of Belgaum city municipal corporation provides for the sources of income which can be grouped as follows:

1. Property Tax
2. Minor levies
3. Non tax sources
4. Revenue assignments
5. Capital Finance Loans
6. Grants in aid
7. Compensation by the State Government
8. Corporation properties Rent and Income

It is at this stage that our survey started to check on the working of Belgaum Corporation. We started off by asking them as to what the respondents feel about the health of the corporation in terms of Finance.

Table-A

How do you see the financial position of Belgaum Corporation?

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Property Tax

The property tax is the single largest source of revenue for the Belgaum corporation. It is the backbone of corporation revenue in Belgaum. The property tax is generally known as house tax. According to Dr. Venkata Rao, house tax is the venerable mother of the municipal tax. The Committee on Augmentation of Financial Resource of Urban Local Bodies has described this tax as property tax. It consists of many components such as tax for general purpose, lighting tax, drainage tax, sanitary cases and others. All these levies are consolidated and called the tax on property. Additional levies in the form of cases are also levied on the property. Usually, the proceeds of these cases would be given to the government for its activities.
For the purpose of determination of quantum of municipal tax, buildings are classified on the basis of type and use of buildings as noted below.

1. R.C.C. Roofing
2. Tile Roofing
3. Mud Roofing
4. Zinc or A.C. Sheet Roofing and
5. Thatched Roofing.

The use of buildings e classified as:

1. Residential
2. Educational
3. Institutional
4. Assembly
5. Business
6. Mercantile
7. Industrial
8. Storage and
9. Hazardous
As per the Karnataka Municipal Corporation Act, 1976, a building cannot be occupied unless the owner obtains a completion report whenever an owner applied for completion certificate, he should be asked to furnish the following details along with application. They are;

1. Site dimension
2. Total Plinth area
3. Type of structure
4. Floor area description

The basis of assessment various between lands and buildings. It is the capital value in the case of the former, while it is the annual rental value with regard to the latter. Capital value is the market value of land and it is determined in accordance with the estimated value prevailing at the time of assessment of similar lands in an area.
The annual value of buildings is the gross annual rent at which they reasonably be expected to be let from month to month or from year to year. The fixation of the rental value for residential and rented out buildings, which from the bulk of the buildings in towns and cities, is simpler than the determination of their capital value. Further, capital values of properties fluctuate to a more significant reasonable rent is a levy of the actual or potential income from the property and to that extent is a more equitable method of taxation than based on capital value. Depreciation allowance is granted in the case of buildings at 16.3/2 percent of annual rent. While arriving at the tax liability, machinery and furniture are excluded from valuation. In fact, these form an integral part of the building and should be assessed along with the building. There are differential tax rates livable on the properties. As far as buildings are concerned, the minimum rate of levy is 20 per cent
of annual rent. The levy is at the rate of 6 percent of the total estimated market value on the lands. The property tax shall be levied, at such percentage not being less than twenty per cent and not more than twenty five per cent of the ratable value of buildings and lands as may be fixed by the corporation. However, it may be desirable to enhance the rate and make it progressive in view of the increasing expenditure committee's. In addition to this, adequate steps may have to be taken so that the newly added villages also contribute to the public purse.

When a building, whether ordinarily let or occupied by the owner himself, has been vacant and for thirty or more consecutive days in any half year, half of the tax liability is granted remission. It is reported that in the guise of remissions, a sizeable part of revenue is lost. In order to arrest this there is a need for applying
remissions stringently. In view of the increasing tendency of the number of vacancy remissions, it would be desirable to make unattractive. There does not seem to be any need for granting vacancy remission just because a portion of property remains vacant for sometime, as the supply of civic services are meant for general consumption and not for a particular individual. The corporation continues to incur expenditure to that extent, at the same time, if vacancy remissions are granted frequently, loss of revenue would impair the ability to provide civic services.

In addition to the exemptions grantable on the basis of socio economic criteria, sometimes, exemptions are granted to the buildings and lands. The following buildings and lands shall be exempted from the property tax.

a. Place set apart for public worship
b. Countries for the occupation of which no rent is charged

c. Places used for charitable purposes of sheltering the destitute or animals and orphanages, homes and schools for the deaf and dumb, government lands set apart for recreation purpose.

d. Ancient monuments protected under the Ancient Monument Preservation Act of 1925.

e. Charitable hospitals and dispensaries

f. Buildings or lands belonging or the central or state government.

Buildings and lands owned by the central government are at present not subject to property tax. When the citizens owning property are obliged to pay property tax, it does not seem fair on the part of the central government to grant itself an exemption from this tax. The central council of
Local Self government has passed resolutions time and again urging the Union Government to pay property tax. The central government agreed in 1954, to pay service charges in lieu of taxes, but no payment has so far been made except in a few isolated cases. At present, it pays property tax only to Delhi Municipal Corporation. In view of the growing need for providing more and more better local service, rising cost of inputs and expanding nature of government properties, the government properties must be subject to local taxation. The local finance Enquiry Committee (1951) recommended that the local bodies should be statutorily empowered to levy the rates on government buildings and the Taxation Enquiry Commission and the Taxation Enquiry Commission (1953-54) also endorsed this view with minor changes. It may be noted that the state government is also not promptly paying the property tax. If the properties of the government continue to go untaxed, the loss would
be cumulative and substantial to the corporation. It is evident that in spite of the repeated reminders and personal contacts, the corporation is not able to collect the dues from the state government in respect of commercial and residential buildings.

The value of property rise because of urbanization, industrialization, developmental activities undertaken by the public authorities and general increase in prices. In this corporation area, there is a growth of buildings and demand for land, with the result scope for rise in the property value. This calls for an efficient periodical revision in the property values so that the benefit from the increasing values accrues partly to the corporation for the welfare of the community. The manner and the type of assessment are for less than satisfactory because it is generally undertaken by personnel with less
competence. A comprehensive and fair evaluation is necessary. Attempts at securing impartial uniform, and objective assessment have been made from time to time but so far nothing effective has been done. There seems no prospect of this being done except by means of government agency performing this duty independent of the local administration and representatives.

Experience elsewhere also has generally shown that efficiency of easement of incompatible with local control over the assessor. In UK for instance, the local authorities are competent to levy the rates, but the valuation of property is done by the Rating and Valuation Department of Board of Inland Revenue which is a central agency. Even in many states of the USA fair and competent assessment is hardly achieved because, most of the assessors are elected representatives. Viewing from the experience of the local governments aboard and
from the needs of our local bodies, setting up of a central valuation agency is necessary.

After having crossed the hurdles in assessment and levy, the corporation has an important task of collecting it. Tax collection is usually an unpleasant job, unlike spending public funds. The corporation’s performance in the collection of the property tax is rather poor. The corporation has attributed several reasons for this and no steps have been taken to step up the level of collection. The factors narrated by the corporation for poor collection are 1) lending the services of the tax collection personnel for other purposes such as preparation of electoral rolls, distribution of ration identity cards, 2) failure to locate the addresses of some landlords who reside in other than the corporation area, 3) slackness or postponement in the payment by some of the state government agencies such as Karnataka Power.
Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL), Belgaum
Urban Development Authority (BUDA) and others and 4)
Newly added villages.

It would be desirable to elaborate on this point a little further and suggest how effectively they can be surmounted in the interest of tax collection. On the insistence of the state government the service of the revenue collection personnel are lent and it comes in the way of their efficiency. This should be avoided because of the loss of revenue sustained in this connection. It may also be true that the corporation cannot spare personnel from its other departments. It would seem logical if the state government itself takes care of the other national or state programmes without diverting the services of these personnel. The corporation's failure to locate the addresses of some of the landlords can be solved by collecting the tax from the tenant. Even though a provision to
this effect exists in the Act, the corporation does not seem to have made use of it. There is nothing that exempts a public agency to pay taxes to a local body. In spite of protracted correspondence, these agencies have failed to respond positively and the state government can prevail upon them and seem to it that there is a prompt payment. Tax collection from the newly added villages is proving somewhat increasingly difficult. As in these localities a lower tax rate was operating previously the tax rate of the corporations is certainly higher in view of the provision of more and better civic amenities. In this connection it has granted some concession of levy at 9 per cent instead of 25 per cent. When the corporation attempts to collect 25 per cent after the specified period of concession, the landlords in most of the cases, are able to halt the process of collection. At the same time, they argue that they are no reaping full advantage of their payment. Even
though there is an improvement in the provision of civic services, the payment is not forthcoming.

Thus, Finance being the central aspect of survival of a political institution one can see the response of various section of population to this very important issue.

In this case a survey was conducted in the District of Belgaum having four categories of respondents who included Officers, Councilors, Citizens and elites.

The choice of respondents was made on random method with stratified sampling procedure.

To a question on the choice of the respondents about what they think about the working of corporation the response was overwhelming and favorable with nearly 65% accepting that the
corporation was working in the right direction. (See Table-1)

To another question on the choice of the respondents about what they identify as the right direction in the working of their corporation they had three choices. One was to identify if there was true decentralization. Secondly they had to identify if there was people's participation. Thirdly they had to identify if the decentralized institutions in their region was serving the local area.

In the reasons identified by the respondents 85 percent of them believed that the decentralized institutions in their region was serving the local area. And about 62 percent of them saw that there was true decentralization. About 53 percent believed that there was people's participation. The break up of how the respondents the reacted to each
1. Do you think the Corporation is working in the right direction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respondents</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Officers</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>60.00</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>40.00</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councilors</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citizens</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>66.67</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>33.33</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elites</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>66.67</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>33.33</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>65.50</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>34.50</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
of these choices can be seen from table -2. (See table - 2).

Problems of north Karnataka relating to the working of decentralized institutions seem to lie in the fact that people's poor conceptualization of their working. For a question relating to the above a definition was given to the respondents. The reply is seen in the table no 3. On an average 53 percent of the people disagreed to this view. 47 percent agreed to this viewpoint. This reply shows that lack of knowledge about the economic, political, social status of local government is not clearly understood by the respondents (see table 3).

To the next question on the functioning environment of municipal corporation of Belgaum. 4 choices were provided to the respondents about what they thought was the good working condition for the corporation. 43 percent agreed that it was the
Table-2

a) If yes, identify its direction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respondents</th>
<th>There is true decentralization</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>There is people's participation</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>It is serving the local area</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Officers</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>30.00</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>20.00</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councilors</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>30.00</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>20.00</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citizens</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>33.33</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>26.67</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>40.00</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elites</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>13.33</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>26.67</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>60.00</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>31.00</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>26.50</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>42.50</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Bar Chart](chart1.png)

- It is serving the local area
- There is people's participation
- There is true decentralization

![Pie Chart](chart2.png)

- There is true decentralization
- There is people's participation
- It is serving the local area

TOTAL

- Officers: 53
- Councilors: 62
- Citizens: 85
- Elites: 50

![Chart](chart3.png)
Decentralization here is defined as that process of sharing power, getting elected from the local area, allowing people's participation, collection of taxes, managing local affairs locally. Do you agree?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respondents</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Officers</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>30.00</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>70.00</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councilors</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citizens</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>49.33</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>50.67</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elites</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>40.00</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>60.00</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>47.00</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>53.00</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
working of committee and sub committees that had pushed life into the healthy working conditions of Municipal Corporation of Belgaum. Although, they argued that there was infra structural deficiency. 23 percent felt that there was the problem of passive participation of the people in solving their own problems. However, they were happy that the corporation attended to the grievances of citizens. This is in the light of non-proactive role of the population and elites of this region. About 19 percent saw regular attendance in all meetings as a force behind its healthy working. And about 15 percent felt there was secular working condition in the corporation. Some of the respondents in all categories respectively threw the blame on geography and the distance of north Karnataka from the capital as cause for this. This argument has been there in the committees, which have presented the case of regional disparity in northern Karnataka. (See table -4)
Table 4

What are the programmes of your municipal corporation that ensures its good working conditions?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respondents</th>
<th>Secular working condition %</th>
<th>Regular attendance in all meetings %</th>
<th>Productive committee and sub committee meetings %</th>
<th>Attending to grievances of citizens %</th>
<th>% Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Officers</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>30.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>7.00</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councilors</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>6.00</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citizens</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>16.67</td>
<td>20.00</td>
<td>25.00</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elites</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>16.67</td>
<td>33.33</td>
<td>40.00</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>15.00</td>
<td>19.00</td>
<td>43.00</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Bar chart showing the distribution of responses across different groups for various programmes.]

![Pie chart showing the total responses across all programmes.]

Legend:
- Attending to grievances of citizens
- Productive committee and sub committee meetings
- Regular attendance in all meetings
- Secular working condition
About 51 percent respondents argued that the corporation has been able to promote development. And only 49 percent disagreed to this. In table - 5 the details of this are shown which indicates a very marginal difference of opinion between the two sets of respondents vis-a-vis the ability of the corporation to promote development. Different voices of respondents are also seen in this table. (see table- 5).

To a question on the satisfaction of the respondents with regards these programmes of development 55.50 percent felt that they were not satisfied to these programmes of development. About 44.50 percent of the population were satisfied with these programmes of development. The surprising fact is that nearly 70 per cent of Officers and 60 percent of councilors were un-happy with these programmes of development while among elites 56.67
Table-5

Do you think your corporation has been able to promote development?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respondents</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Officers</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>60.00</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>40.00</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councilors</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>60.00</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>40.00</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citizens</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>50.67</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>49.33</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elites</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>46.67</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>53.33</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>102</td>
<td>51.00</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>49.00</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Bar chart](image1)

![Pie chart](image2)
percent were satisfied with these programmes of developments.
Table-6 clearly explains the details of this. (See Table-6)

For a question on what has been the response of women to these programmes was a question involving gender differentiation. Several choices were given to these respondents of who many a women were members of council or officers. Their response is shown in table-7 (See table-7).

Belgaum has been one of the most contentions places where linguistic issues dominate every aspect of life. In this direction it was felt that it would be relevant to ask a question about the problems faced by the corporation of Belgaum by the linguistics groups. Surprisingly 65.50 per cent of the respondent of whom 60 per cent officers 50 per cent councilors 66.67 per cent of citizens and
Are you satisfied with these programmes of development?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respondents</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Officers</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>30.00</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>70.00</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councilors</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>40.00</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>60.00</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citizens</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>43.33</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>56.67</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elites</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>56.67</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>43.33</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>44.50</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>55.50</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What has been the response of women to these programmes?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respondents</th>
<th>Positive %</th>
<th>Negative %</th>
<th>Satisfying %</th>
<th>Should have been better %</th>
<th>No Answer %</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Officers</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>70.00</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councilors</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>80.00</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citizens</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>31.33</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>38.67</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elites</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>56.67</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>23.50</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>45.00</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Officers**: 0 Positive, 0 Negative, 7 Satisfying, 0 Should Have Been Better, 3 No Answer, Total 10
- **Councilors**: 0 Positive, 0 Negative, 8 Satisfying, 2 Should Have Been Better, 0 No Answer, Total 10
- **Citizens**: 47 Positive, 5 Negative, 58 Satisfying, 25 Should Have Been Better, 15 No Answer, Total 150
- **Elites**: 0 Positive, 0 Negative, 17 Satisfying, 12 Should Have Been Better, 1 No Answer, Total 30
- **Total**: 47 Positive, 5 Negative, 90 Satisfying, 39 Should Have Been Better, 19 No Answer, Total 200

---

**Diagram 1**: Bar chart showing the response of different groups with percentages for each category.

**Diagram 2**: Pie chart showing the total response with categories and their respective counts.

- Positive: 0, Negative: 0, Satisfying: 0, Should Have Been Better: 0, No Answer: 0, Total: 0
elites respectively felt that there was no problem of linguistic groups in working of corporation about 34.5 per cent felt that they were problems of linguistic groups in the working of corporation. This indicates that the much publicize language chauvinism is not haunting corporation working that Belgaum (See table-8). However when it comes to linguistic politics the experience is quite the opposite latterly (see table-9).

With response to a question on they ability of the corporation to reach its goals as per targets the response was that 55.5 per cent NO. Given to the response of table-9 there no surprise hidden in this. (For details see table-10).

The next question was more of an re assurance one. The question directly enquires in to the relationship between political mobilization and decentralization. From systems analysis to current
**Table-8**

Do you face problems from linguistic groups in your working?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respondents</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Officers</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>40.00</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>60.00</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councilors</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citizens</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>33.33</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>66.67</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elites</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>33.33</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>66.67</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>34.50</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>65.50</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table-9

Do you experience linguistic politics in corporation?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respondents</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Officers</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>60.00</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>40.00</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councilors</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citizens</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>66.67</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>33.33</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elites</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>66.67</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>33.33</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>131</td>
<td>65.50</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>34.50</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondents</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Officers</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>30.00</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>70.00</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councilors</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>40.00</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>60.00</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citizens</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>43.33</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>56.67</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elites</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>56.67</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>43.33</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>89</td>
<td><strong>44.50</strong></td>
<td>111</td>
<td><strong>55.50</strong></td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table-11
Decentralization ensures greater political mobility

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respondents</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Officers</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>60.00</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>40.00</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councilors</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>60.00</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>40.00</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citizens</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>50.67</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>49.33</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elites</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>46.67</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>53.33</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>51.00</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>49.00</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table-12

Corporation working in Belgaum has brought difference/change in our life

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respondents</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Officers</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councilors</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>60.00</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>40.00</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citizens</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elites</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>53.33</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>46.67</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>51.00</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>49.00</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

100%

90%

80%

70%

60%

50%

40%

30%

20%

10%

0%

Officers
Councilors
Citizens
Elites

\[ \square \text{Yes} \quad \square \text{No} \]
studies on decentralization these issues have been discussed quite frequently. Any doubts about there inter relationships is now cleared with 51 per cent agreeing to this. (See table-11).

To a question on the impact of working of Belgaum corporation on the life of people 51 per cent agreed that it had brought difference and change in their life. (See table-12 for details). Thus, the working of Belgaum Municipal Corporation through this survey has shown positive indications of its ability to deliver the goods.

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Footnote

2. KMC Act 1976, Section 00 1, P. 73.


9. KMC Act, 1976, Section 26 (1) p. 22.

10. Ibid, Section, 26., P. 22.


14. KMC Act, 1976 Section 61 (1) P. 49.

15. Ibid